

August 7, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: James M. Taylor  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Emile L. Julian, Acting Secretary /s/

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-103 - REGULATORY  
ISSUES IN LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE  
PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Commission has approved the staff recommendation to publish, for public comment, a draft Branch Technical Position (BTP) that states staff's position on principal regulatory issues discussed in SECY-96-103, i.e. Timeframe for low-level waste (LLW) performance assessment (PA), Considerations of Future Site Conditions, Processes, and Events, Performance of Engineered Barriers, and Treatment of Sensitivity and Uncertainty in LLW PA. Comments should be solicited on issues discussed in the BTP as well as suitability of the BTP for demonstrating compliance with the performance provision of Part 61. Specifically, Agreement State regulatory agencies should be contacted and afforded the opportunity to comment on the BTP.

When soliciting public comment on the draft BTP, the staff should seek public views on the use of discounting (i.e., qualitative or quantitative) in relation to potential doses to members of the public that may occur in the distant future.

Prior to publication of the final Branch Technical Position, the staff should provide to the Commission the technical basis used to support the truncation of the performance assessment at 10,000 years, including generic considerations derived from the LLW Test Case.

(EDO)

(SECY Suspense:

8/29/97)

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SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-96-103, AND THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
OGC  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)